



Mag Ruffman's Anything I Can Do

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Light The Good Light

Anything I Can Do DVD Volume 3 – Mixed Media

An easy, primitive candle sconce with engraved copper reflector to brighten your winter evenings

Materials:

- 1x6 clear pine 18 1/2 inches long.
- Copper - 36 gauge or .007 mm - 12" x 6" piece
- Milk paint
- Shellac

Tools

- Drill
- Hole saws - 1 1/4", 3" Chisels
- Handsaw
- Paintbrush or sponge brush
- Sand paper
- Steel wool
- Ballpoint pen
- Sharpened stick
- Scissors
- Eye protection

Steps:



Choose a clear piece of pine



Avoid pine that is full of pitch

Choose a clear 1x6 piece of pine and cut it to 18 1/2". The whiter the pine the less pitch it will have in it. Pitch-filled pine has a dark almost translucent colour to it. The less pitch the easier it is to cut the board, and the less it will gum up your tools and fingers. Pitch can leave sticky deposits on cutting blades. If your blades do get clogged up, the pitch can be removed with oven cleaner. To prevent pitch from staining through paint, seal it before painting with a coat of shellac.



Use a compass to scribe an arc at each end



Cut along the lines with a jig saw



Sand out irregularities by hand



A random orbital sander works much faster

Use a compass to scribe an arc from side to side at each end of the piece of wood. Use a jig saw to cut along the lines. Ease and smooth all the edges with sand paper or an electric sander.



Clamp the wood securely

Securely clamp the board to your work surface.



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Use a hole saw to drill holes in either end



Brace the drill firmly while using hole saw

Drill a 1 1/4" hole at one end using a hole-saw bit. The centre of the hole should be about 1 1/4" down from the top of the arc in the centre of the board. Hole-saws require a steady hand to control them. They tend to catch the wood and twist the drill sharply, so be prepared. If your drill has a handle that attaches to the side, now is a good time to use it; it helps you stabilize the drill.

Once the hole has been drilled, pry out the little piece of wood that gets stuck inside the hole-saw bit. Sometimes it is necessary to take out the mandrel (the centre drill of the hole saw) and push the wood out from behind.



Chisel across the grain at first



Chisel with the grain to finish

Next, using a 3" hole-saw bit, drill 1/8" to 3/8" deep at the other end of the board. This is the depression that will hold the candle. Centre the hole-saw bit on the board 1/2" in from the edge. The larger the hole-saw the trickier it is to cut a hole. Use short bursts with the drill to get the hole-saw started and firmly brace the drill in the process. Don't push down very hard. Let the hole saw start gradually.

Use a chisel to cut away the wood within the circle made by the 3" hole saw. Cutting across the grain is easier at first but finish by chiseling along the grain. Use the chisel with the bevel side down because it gives you more control. Also, be sure your chisel is mighty sharp! (Even chisels that are direct from the factory have to be sharpened, although you can get away with using them right out of the box if you have to.)



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Use the cut off piece to mark for cutting

Next, cut off the end that the candle will sit on. Measure 4 1/4" in from the end, mark a square line and cut. Japanese pull saws are by far the easiest handsaw to use.

Scribe a square line 3/4" up from the now square end of the long piece. Place the square end of the short piece on the side of the line leaving the 3/4" space at the bottom. Scribe a parallel line on the other side.



Use a saw and chisel to make a one quarter inch deep groove



A three quarter inch chisel fits perfectly

Use the Japanese pull saw to make 1/4" deep cuts on the lines. Use a chisel to remove the wood in between.



Milk paint comes in many colours



Apply with a sponge or brush

Glue the shelf in place and coat everything with shellac to seal. Next, use milk paint to finish and sand as desired to give that antique look.



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Make a drawing and reinforce it with clear contact paper



Tape the drawing over the copper



Use an old pen to trace, pressing the lines of the drawing into the copper

To make the embossed copper reflector, use copper that is about 36 gauge or .007 mm. Draw out the desired design on paper first and cover it with clear contact paper. Designs can be found in many books, especially old Victorian design books. Tape the reinforced drawing over the copper and use an old ballpoint pen to trace the drawing on to the copper. Almost any household implement can be used to burnish an impression in the copper. Working over something soft like a stack of newspapers helps the copper to take the shapes.



The copper easily takes the impression



Use a sharpened stick and work from the back side

After the drawing has been transferred to the copper, turn it over and use a sharp stick to accentuate the shapes from the back. The depth of the drawing can be controlled through burnishing from both sides while working over newspaper.



Use scissors to cut out the shape



Tack it in place with half inch copper nails



Metal and wood candle sconce

The copper is so soft that it can be cut with scissors and then tacked in place. Copper tacks can be found at a boat-building supply house or at specialty woodworking suppliers.

The surface of your candle sconce can be rubbed, if desired, with 0000 steel wool to give it a satin finish



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